

July 7, 2011

MINOT ONE STOP CONTRACTOR LICENSING CENTER

BISMARCK – At a joint news conference held earlier today in Minot, Governor Jack Dalrymple, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Tax Commissioner Cory Fong announced that a multi-agency “one stop” contractor licensing center will open in Minot on Monday July 11, 2011. The center will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is located in the Job Service building at 3416 North Broadway, Minot.

“This one-stop center will be a very effective way to prevent fraudulent contractors from taking advantage of Minot residents, but at the same time it will expedite the process of licensing for reputable contractors who are needed in Minot,” Dalrymple said.

“Contractors and clean-up related business will be critical to ensuring an efficient and orderly recovery effort in Minot and the surrounding communities impacted by Souris River flooding,” said Tax Commissioner Cory Fong. “And, it is important that they are meeting the requirements of North Dakota law, which means they have the appropriate licenses and permits in order to work in the state, including having a sales tax permit and are registered for withholding if they have employees.”

All contractors and their employees are required to be licensed by the Secretary of State. Contractors who are not permanently located in Minot also must post a bond and obtain a transient merchant’s license issued by the Attorney General’s office. Employees from both state agencies will be staffing the One Stop center with employees from Job Service North Dakota, Workforce Safety, the Tax Commissioner’s office and the City of Minot. The One Stop center will enable contractors to quickly complete the required state licensing and registration procedures.

Agents from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation will conduct a warrants and registered sex offender search on all applicants and any illegal aliens will be turned over to federal authorities. All individuals will be issued a One Stop Center Photo Identification card so that home and business owners can easily determine that both the company and the individual employee are properly licensed and bonded with the state. The photo identification also will indicate if the licensee is a registered sex offender.

“Anyone in Minot needing to rebuild or repair flood damaged property should ask to see the photo identification card issued by the One Stop Center before doing business with a contractor. The ID card provides reassurance to the home or business owner that the contractor has complied with state licensing requirements,” said Stenehjem.

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Attorney General Stenehjem encouraged licensed contractors who operate permanently in Minot to visit the One Stop Center as soon as possible to obtain photo identification cards for their employees. The process will be expedited for licensed contractors with a permanent business address in Minot. Documentation of the current license status will be required.

“Access to flood damaged areas is restricted so contractors who do not have a photo identification card issued by the One Stop center may find it difficult to gain entry into the restricted areas, particularly the residential streets,” said Stenehjem. Law enforcement in the restricted areas will be checking all contractors for photo identification cards.

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